

that such a petition has been inadvertently overlooked and is required. As provided below, charge Deposit Account **04-1105** for any required fee.

Please **amend** the subject application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **cancel** claim 1 without prejudice.

**Amend** the following claims to read:

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C1  
a1  
2. (Amended) A stiff, metallic hub for an energy storage device, having a flywheel assembly, wherein the hub produces a critical velocity that exceeds the design operating speed of the flywheel assembly, the stiff, metallic hub comprising:

a central core in tight interference fit with a rotary shaft of the flywheel assembly;

an outer rim section in tight interference fit with a high-strength, low-density composite fiber rim of the flywheel assembly; and

a web section.

3. (Amended) A stiff, metallic hub as recited in claim 2, wherein the hub is manufactured of material selected from the group comprising aluminum, titanium, and steel.

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C1  
a1  
5. (Amended) A stiff, metallic hub as recited in claim 2, wherein the critical velocity is between about 1.4 and about 3.0 times the design operating speed of the flywheel assembly.

6. (Amended) A stiff, metallic hub as recited in claim 2, wherein at high operating speeds, the outer rim section is capable of deforming in a radial direction commensurate with radial deformation of the composite fiber rim of the flywheel assembly to maintain a tight interference fit to substantially minimize vibrations.